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Probe of CIA Prisons Implicates EU Nations

PARIS - Fourteen European nations colluded with U.S. intelligence in a "spider's web" of human rights abuses to help the CIA spirit terror suspects to illegal detention facilities, a European investigator said Wednesday. Swiss senator **Dick Marty**'s report to Europe's top human rights body was thin on evidence but raises the possibility of a cover-up involving both friends and critics of Washington's war on terror. It says European governments "did not seem particularly eager to establish" the facts.

The 67-page report, addressed to the 46 Council of Europe member states, will likely be used by the rights watchdog to pressure countries to investigate their suspected role in U.S. rendition flights carrying terror suspects. Marty's claims triggered a wave of angry denials but also accusations that governments are stonewalling attempts to confront Europe's role in the flights. "This report exposes the myth that European governments had no knowledge of, or involvement in, rendition and secret detentions," said lawmaker **Michael Moore**, foreign affairs spokesman for Britain's second opposition party, the Liberal Democrats.

In the strongest allegations so far, Marty said evidence suggests planes linked to the CIA carrying terror suspects stopped in Romania and Poland and likely dropped off detainees there, backing up earlier news reports that identified the two countries as possible sites of clandestine detention centers. Officials in Romania and Poland vigorously denied the accusations. "This is slander and it's not based on any facts," **Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz**, Poland's prime minister, told reporters in Warsaw. British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** also denied the collusion allegations and said Marty's report contained no new evidence.

"I have to say, the Council of Europe report has absolutely nothing new in it," he told lawmakers.

Marty, investigating the flights since November, said the 14 European nations -- along with some other countries including Iraq, Morocco and Afghanistan -- aided the movement of at least 17 detainees who said they had been abducted by U.S. agents and secretly transferred to detention centers around the world. "I have chosen to adopt the metaphor of a global spider's web, a web that has been spun out incrementally over several years using tactics and techniques that had to be developed in response to new threats of war," Marty said. "We're definitely not talking about hundreds of detainees, it likely is a much smaller number," Marty said. (AP, 6/8)

U.S. says EU report on secret prisons is 'rehash'

WASHINGTON - The United States on Wednesday dismissed a European Union report on alleged CIA secret prisons in Europe as "a rehash." "We don't see any new solid facts in it," State Department spokesman **Sean McCormack** told reporters. McCormack said U.S. officials have not had the opportunity to thoroughly read the report, but said "I think that we're certainly disappointed at the tone and the content of it."

The report by Swiss Sen. Dick Marty found evidence that planes carrying terror suspects stopped in Romania and Poland and likely dropped off detainees there. It offered no direct proof, however, that the CIA set up detention centers in Europe. McCormack said that renditions, transfers of terror suspects to third countries, are legal and said the report suggested that intelligence activities were inherently bad. He said international intelligence cooperation saves lives.

At the White House, press secretary **Tony Snow** would not comment on the report. He said nations have practiced renditions for a very long time. "Carlos the Jackal, you may recall, by rendition ended up in a French jail. Nations have to work together on intelligence matters," Snow said. Snow also said the United States does not condone nor practice torture. "Torture is illegal and we acknowledge and follow all international laws," he said. "Furthermore, we will not agree to send anybody to a nation or place that practices torture." (AP, 6/7)

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